

March 13, 2023

Re: HF345

Dear Chair Youakim and Members of the House Education Finance Committee,

I am writing today on behalf of Jennings Community School, to express our support for HF 345 to improve educational outcomes and accountability for students of color. Jennings Community School is a public charter that serves students in 7th grade through 21 years of age who live in St. Paul and surrounding areas. Many of our students choose to enroll at JCS for our small class sizes, student centered learning and focus on post-secondary opportunities.

Jennings Community School provides an education for students that prepares them to be happy, contributing members of their communities. We do this by integrating social-emotional and mental health supports into our personalized, real-life curriculum and using restorative practices to address and work through conflict. We have been fortunate to participate in the development and pilot of an Equity Framework for High Schools with Pillsbury United Communities. This is the hope that schools like ours is looking for, to measure and create data that highlights the amazing work that our students are doing in school everyday.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of HF345 on behalf of the Jennings Community School. We look forward to further developing equitable evaluation and accountability systems for our students of color in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Krissy Wright Quinn Executive Director

Jennings Community School

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